
**MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

2014

**Analysis of Child Fatalities
& Near Fatalities**

January 2016



Child Near Fatalities in 2014

The DCF Case Investigation Unit (CIU) receives notification of all reports of abuse or neglect that meet the definition of “near fatality.” DCF defines a “near fatality” as any case where a doctor or hospital has filed a 51A report and determined the child named in the report to be in “serious” or “critical” condition as a result of physical and/or sexual abuse or neglect, and that the condition is considered to be life threatening. Upon receiving notification of a near fatality from an area office, CIU staff review all information about the case contained in FamilyNet (DCF’s automated case management system). This preliminary data collection serves as the basis for their investigation. The CIU process for near fatalities is a paper review; there are no meetings with area office managers or staff. However, CIU investigators may call area office managers or staff for additional information.

There were 13 near fatalities reported to DCF during 2014 (8 girls and 5 boys). Abusive head trauma (AHT) injuries¹ were diagnosed in 6 of the 13 near fatalities. Four of the 6 abusive head trauma victims also had bodily injuries (fractures and bruises). Of the remaining 7 near fatalities: 2 had injuries from near drownings; 2 had injuries from falls; 1 child had multiple fractures and bruising; 1 child had injuries from ingesting cocaine and benzodiazepines, and 1 child had injuries from ingesting clonidine. **(Table A1)**

Neglect was a factor in the near fatalities of 6 children, physical abuse was a factor for 2 children, and both physical abuse and neglect were factors for 5 children. These 13 children were victimized by 24 perpetrators. Perpetrators who neglected and physically abused children included 3 mothers, 2 fathers, 1 male partner, 1 female relative, and 1 caretaker. The remaining perpetrators committed either neglect or physical abuse. They included 7 mothers, 3 fathers, 1 caretaker, and 1 male partner who neglected children and 1 mother, 1 female relative, and 2 unknown perpetrators who physically abused children. **(Table A2)**

Victimized children included 7 (54%) infants (less than 1 year old), 1 one-year old, 2 two-year olds, 1 three-year old, and 2 four-year olds **(Table A1)**. Six of the children were White and 2 were Black. Race was unknown for 5 children. Four of the 13 children with near fatal injuries were identified as Hispanic/Latino.

Of the 13 families, 5 were known to DCF (5 open protective cases) and 8 were unknown (no prior history). One of the children was in DCF custody, placed in a Kinship Foster Home. Median ages of the mothers and fathers were 28 years and 32.5 years, respectively. Six mothers and 3 fathers had a prior history with DCF. Current family issues were substance abuse (6 families), mental illness (5), and domestic violence (3). **(Tables A1 and A2)**

¹ Abusive head trauma is defined as brain, skull, and spinal injuries associated with shaking and other injuries inflicted on infants (new terminology from the American Academy of Pediatrics) (Christian, C.W. and R. Block. 2009. Abusive Head Trauma in Infants and Children. Pediatrics 123: 1409-1411).

Table A1. CY'2014 Child Near Fatalities: 13 Children from Families Known and Unknown to DCF

CHILD'S AGE	FAMILY CASE STATUS	DURATION OPENED/CLOSED	INJURIES	ABUSE/NEGLECT	DCF CUSTODY	PLACEMENT TYPE
31 days	no previous history	----	abusive head trauma, seizures	PHYS/NEG	No	N/A
79 days	no previous history	----	abusive head trauma	PHYS/NEG	No	N/A
108 days	no previous history	----	abusive head trauma, fractures (ribs, hand, foot, thigh)	PHYS	No	N/A
125 days	no previous history	----	abusive head trauma, bruising (shoulder)	PHYS/NEG	No	N/A
129 days	open protective	6 mos. or less	fractures (ribs, legs), bruising (back, chest, groin)	PHYS	TEMP	KIN
164 days	open protective	6 mos. or less	abusive head trauma, bruising (face, neck, chest)	PHYS/NEG	No	N/A
187 days	no previous history	----	injuries from near drowning	NEG	No	N/A
1 year	open protective	6 mos. or less	injuries from ingestion of clonidine	NEG	No	N/A
2 years	no previous history	----	abusive head trauma, bruising (lips, ears, face, buttocks)	PHYS/NEG	No	N/A
2 years	no previous history	----	head injuries from fall, seizures	NEG	No	N/A
3 years	open protective	more than 6 mos.	injuries from ingestion of cocaine and benzodiazepines	NEG	No	N/A
4 years	open protective	more than 6 mos.	injuries from fall (pushed out window by sibling), fractures (face)	NEG	No	N/A
4 years	no previous history	----	injuries from near drowning	NEG	No	N/A

CODES: NEG = neglect; PHYS = physical abuse; TEMP = temporary custody; N/A = not in placement; KIN = Kinship Foster Care

NOTE: **Abusive Head Trauma** = brain, skull, and spinal injuries associated with shaking and other head injuries inflicted on infants (American Academy of Pediatrics). Injuries may include: subdural hemorrhages; retinal hemorrhages; brain swelling; skull fractures ...

Table A2. CY'2014 Child Near Fatalities: Perpetrators (13 Children from Families Known or Unknown to DCF)

CHILD'S AGE	PERPETRATOR	NEGLECT	PHYSICAL ABUSE	INJURIES	CURRENT FAMILY ISSUES
31 days	father	X	----	abusive head trauma, seizures	
	mother	X	----		
	unknown	----	X		
79 days	mother	X	X	abusive head trauma	SA/MI
	father	X	X		
108 days	mother	----	X	abusive head trauma, fractures (ribs, hand, foot, thigh)	MI
125 days	mother	X	----	abusive head trauma, bruising (shoulder)	
	father	X	----		
	caretaker	X	----		
	unknown	----	X		
129 days	female relative	----	X	fractures (ribs, legs), bruising (back, chest, groin)	SA/DV/MI
164 days	mother	X	X	abusive head trauma, bruising (face, neck, chest)	SA
	male partner	X	X		
	female relative	X	X		
	caretaker	X	X		
187 days	mother	X	----	injuries from near drowning	
1 year	mother	X	----	injuries from ingestion of clonidine	SA/DV/MI
	father	X	----		
2 years	mother	X	X	abusive head trauma, bruising (lips, ears, face, buttocks)	SA/DV/MI
	father	X	X		
2 years	male partner	X	----	head injuries from fall, seizures	
3 years	mother	X	----	injuries from ingestion of cocaine and benzodiazepines	SA
4 years	mother	X	----	injuries from fall (pushed out window by sibling), fractures (face)	
4 years	mother	X	----	injuries from near drowning	

CODES: DV = domestic violence; MI = mental illness; SA = substance abuse

NOTE: Omissions under "Current Family Issues" and "Teen Mother" indicate "None" or "Unknown." Issues apply to the children and their caretaker(s).

Abusive Head Trauma = brain, skull, and spinal injuries associated with shaking and other head injuries inflicted on infants (American Academy of Pediatrics).

Injuries may include: subdural hemorrhages; retinal hemorrhages; brain swelling; skull fractures...

Child Fatalities in 2014

Child Fatalities for Families Open or Recently Involved with DCF

All child deaths in families open or recently involved (“known”) to DCF are reported to the Case Investigation Unit, regardless of how the child died.² CIU staff conducts investigations that focus on a review of the services provided to the family and the circumstances surrounding the death. Each investigation includes, but is not limited to, a comprehensive review of the case record and a visit to the DCF Area Office to interview social work staff involved with the case. The purpose of this review is to determine if DCF needs to address any case practice or policy issues.

Since its formation in the late 1980s, the CIU has collected information on deceased children whose families had the following status with DCF:

- families with an open case;
- families being investigated as the result of a 51A report³ received prior to the child’s death⁴;
- families with cases that closed within the six months preceding the child’s death; and
- families who had a supported 51A report within six months preceding the child’s death, but the case was not opened for services.

Thirty-seven (37) children in families with an open or recently⁵ closed DCF case status died in 2014. As determined by the medical examiner, 15 of these children died from natural causes, 3 from accidents, 1 from homicide, and 1 from suicide. Ten (10) deceased children have undergone an autopsy, but as of the writing of this report, the manner of death remains pending the completion of the forensic investigation. For an additional 6 children, the manner of death was “undetermined” following an autopsy by a medical examiner.⁶ Autopsy results were unavailable for one child, whose death occurred out of state. Child maltreatment (neglect/physical abuse) was found by DCF to be the cause or contributing factor in 9 of the 37 deaths. **(Table A3)**

Forty-six percent (46%) of these deceased children were infants (less than one-year old), 30% were 1-11 years old, and 24% were adolescents (12-17 years old). Four (4) of the 37 children were in DCF custody at the time of their death. Of the 4 children in DCF custody, 2 hospitalized children died from natural causes, 1 child died from natural causes while placed in a

²Manner of death may be natural causes, unintentional injuries, homicide, suicide, pending investigation/autopsy, or undetermined following an autopsy.

³ Massachusetts Laws, Chapter 119, Section 51A (reporting of abuse and neglect of children).

⁴This 51A report under investigation must be independent of, and filed prior to, the 51A report filed on the child’s death or the factors directly contributing to the child’s death.

⁵Families with cases that closed within the six months preceding the child’s death

⁶The medical examiner has performed a full forensic evaluation (toxicology screens, investigation of the scene at death, autopsy, etc.) but cannot determine if the manner of death was due to natural causes or an accident.

kinship foster home, and 1 child died from injuries sustained when struck by a car while placed in an unrelated foster home. **(Table A3)**

Over the past 26 years, DCF child deaths (open or recently closed cases) have ranged from a high of 89 to a low of 30 fatalities per year, with a median of 40 fatalities. The number (37) of fatalities in 2014 was not appreciably different from the previous four years (30-39).

Regardless of setting, most deaths have been due to natural causes and to a lesser degree accidents. In the past 15 years (2001-2014), there have been 2 maltreatment-related fatalities in foster care and none in residential care. There was an accidental death in 2001 when a child died while in unrelated foster care (neglect). In 2005, a child in unrelated foster care was a homicide victim (physical abuse and neglect).

Child Fatalities for Families with a Non-Current or No DCF History

In 2001, the CIU began collecting information on all deceased children for whom a 51A report was filed including those from families previously unknown to DCF and families with cases closed more than six months prior to the child's death. This group of child fatalities is limited to those children where abuse/neglect was the direct cause of death or was a contributing factor to the cause of death. The data collected on these maltreatment deaths are not as comprehensive as the data collected on families with current or recent DCF involvement. Data are gathered via phone calls to area office staff and a review of case information in the DCF case management information system (FamilyNet).

The deaths of 13 children reported to DCF with non-current or no DCF history, were found to be maltreatment-related. Neglect was a factor in 10 deaths, physical abuse a factor in 2, and both physical abuse and neglect were factors in 1 death. Eight (8) children were from families not previously known to DCF and 5 were from families whose cases had been closed for more than six months at the time of death. For 6 of the 13 children, unsafe sleeping conditions were a factor in the death. **(Table A4)**

Unsafe Sleep

In 2014, there were 50 child fatalities from 37 families known to DCF and 13 families “unknown” to DCF. Of the 50 children, 26 were less than 1 year-of-age. Of these 26 infants, 13 (50%) were in a sleep environment that did not meet the standards recommended in the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) Safe Sleep Policy, or as referred throughout this report as “unsafe sleep.” This includes 7 families known and 6 families “unknown” to DCF. The medical examiner was not able to determine the manner of death for 9 (69%) of these infant fatalities. Of the remaining fatalities of children in unsafe sleep settings, 1 was due to natural causes, and 5 were pending the completion of an investigation by the police and medical examiners. DCF investigators supported neglect as a contributing factor for 9 infants in unsafe sleep settings in 2014. (table below, Tables A3 and A4)

Year & Manner of Death	Cause of Death (Families Known and Unknown to DCF)			
	SIDS	SIDS/ Unsafe Sleep	Asphyxiation/ Unsafe Sleep	Unspecified Cause/ Unsafe Sleep*
2008:				
Natural Causes	1	---	---	---
Accident	---	---	3 (2 neglect)	---
Undetermined/Pending	---	4 (1 neglect)	---	---
2009:				
Natural Causes	2	---	---	---
Accident	---	---	---	---
Undetermined/Pending	1	7 (3 neglect)	---	3 (1 neglect)
2010:				
Natural Causes	1	---	---	---
Accident	---	---	---	---
Undetermined	4 (1 neglect)	2 (1 neglect)	---	---
2011:				
Natural Causes	1	---	---	---
Accident	---	---	1 (1 neglect)	---
Undetermined	---	7 (5 neglect)	---	2 (2 neglect)
2012:				
Natural Causes	---	---	---	---
Accident	---	---	1 (1 neglect)	---
Undetermined	---	6 (4 neglect)	---	7 (4 neglect)
Pending Investigation	---	---	---	4 (1 neglect)
2013:				
Natural Causes	1	1 neglect	---	---
Accident	---	---	2 neglect	---
Undetermined	---	5 neglect	---	1 neglect
Pending Investigation	---	---	---	5 neglect
2014:				
Natural Causes	1	---	---	---
Accident	---	---	---	---
Undetermined	1	6 (4 neglect)	---	2 (2 neglect)
Pending Investigation	---	---	---	5 (3 neglect)

Note: (# neglect) = number of neglect-related deaths as ascertained by DCF investigators

Table A3. CY 2014 Child Fatalities: 37 Children from Families with an Open or Recently Open DCF Case Status

AGE (YEARS)	FAMILY CASE STATUS	DURATION OPENED/CLOSED	MANNER* OF DEATH	FACTORS CAUSING OR CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH	NEGLECT/ ABUSE	DCF CUSTODY	PLACEMENT TYPE
<1	open protective	more than 6 months	P	prematurity, prenatal drug exposure, lack of prenatal care	NEG	NO	N/A
<1	open protective	more than 6 months	NC	Neonatal cardiac dysrhythmia, prematurity		NO	N/A
<1	case closed	6 months or less	U	SIDS(co-sleeping w/ mother)		NO	N/A
<1	open protective	more than 6 months	NC	Cardiopulmonary arrest, prematurity		NO	HOSP
<1	open protective	more than 6 months	U	ill-defined and unspecified cause (unsafe sleeping conditions)	NEG	NO	N/A
<1	open protective	6 months or less	NC	Respiratory failure, oxygen deprivation		NO	N/A
<1	open protective	6 months or less	NC	Respiratory failure, multiorgan dysfunction, prematurity		NO	HOSP
<1	open protective	more than 6 months	NC	Pulmonary Hemorrhage, severe cardiac condition, prenatal drug exposure, lack of prenatal care	NEG	NO	N/A
<1	open protective	6 months or less	NC	Progressive respiratory and cardiac failure		NO	HOSP
<1	open protective	6 months or less	P	ill-defined and unspecified cause (unsafe sleeping conditions)		NO	N/A
<1	open protective	more than 6 months	P	ill-defined and unspecified cause	NEG	NO	N/A
<1	open protective	6 months or less	U	SIDS (co-sleeping w/ parents)		NO	N/A
<1	open protective	more than 6 months	P	ill-defined and unspecified cause (unsafe sleeping conditions)		NO	N/A
<1	open protective	6 months or less	U	Complications of cardiopulmonary arrest, unspecified cause (unsafe sleeping conditions)	NEG	NO	N/A
<1	open protective	more than 6 months	NC	SIDS		TEMP	KIN
<1	open protective	more than 6 months	O**	unspecified cause (unsafe sleeping conditions)	NEG	NO	N/A
<1	open protective	more than 6 months	NC	Respiratory Failure		NO	N/A
1	open protective	more than 6 months	U	SIDS		NO	N/A
1	open protective	6 months or less	NC	Malignant Hepatoblastoma (Liver Cancer)		NO	HOSP
2	open protective	more than 6 months	U	ill-defined and unspecified cause	PHYS/NEG	NO	N/A
2	open protective	more than 6 months	NC	Pneumonia		NO	N/A
3	case closed	6 months or less	A	Asphyxiation by Ligature		NO	N/A
3	open protective	more than 6 months	NC	Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome		TEMP	HOSP
6	case closed	6 months or less	P	ill-defined and unspecified cause	NEG	NO	N/A
10	open CRA	6 months or less	H	Gunshot (chest)		NO	N/A
10	open protective	6 months or less	NC	Cerebral hemorrhage, heart condition, muscular dystrophy		NO	N/A
11	open protective	more than 6 months	P	ill-defined and unspecified cause		NO	N/A
11	case closed	6 months or less	P	ill-defined and unspecified cause		NO	N/A
12	open protective	more than 6 months	S	Hanging	NEG	NO	N/A
14	open protective	more than 6 months	P	ill-defined and unspecified cause		NO	N/A
15	open protective	more than 6 months	NC	Seizure Disorder		PERM	HOSP
15	open CRA	6 months or less	NC	Respiratory Failure as a consequence of Myelodysplastic Syndrome		NO	HOSP
16	open protective	more than 6 months	NC	Asthma (allergy induced)		NO	N/A
16	open protective	more than 6 months	P	ill-defined and unspecified cause		NO	N/A
16	case closed	6 months or less	P	ill-defined and unspecified cause		NO	N/A
17	open protective	more than 6 months	A	Head, neck, and torso injuries, hit by a truck		PERM	UNREL
18	open protective	more than 6 months	A	Head and chest injuries from MVA		NO	N/A

CODES: NC = natural causes; A = accident; H = homicide; S = suicide; P = pending investigation; U = undetermined by medical examiner; O = Other; NEG = neglect; PHY = physical abuse;

CRA = Children Requiring Assistance; TEMP = temporary custody; PERM = permanent custody; AHT = abusive head trauma; MVA = motor vehicle accident;

N/A = not in placement; HOSP = hospital; KIN = kinship foster home; UNREL = unrelated foster home; ONRUN = on the run from placement

* Manner of death as determined by medical examiner

** Manner of death not available for children who died in another state

Table A4. CY'2014 Child Fatalities: 13 Children from Families Unknown to DCF or with Cases Closed more than Six Months**

AGE (YEARS)	FAMILY CASE STATUS	DURATION OPENED/CLOSED	MANNER* OF DEATH	FACTORS CAUSING OR CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH	NEGLECT/ ABUSE	DCF CUSTODY	PLACEMENT TYPE
<1	case closed	more than 6 months	P	ill-defined and unspecified cause (unsafe sleeping conditions)	NEG	NO	N/A
<1	case closed	more than 6 months	U	SIDS (co-sleeping w/ mother)	NEG	NO	N/A
<1			U	SIDS (unsafe sleeping conditions)	NEG	NO	N/A
<1	case closed	more than 6 months	U	SIDS (co-sleeping w/ mother)	NEG	NO	N/A
<1			O***	Inflicted injuries (head)	PHYS	NO	N/A
<1	case closed	more than 6 months	P	ill-defined and unspecified cause (co-sleeping w/ mother)	NEG	NO	N/A
<1			U	SIDS (unsafe sleeping conditions)	NEG	NO	N/A
<1			P	ill-defined and unspecified cause	NEG	NO	N/A
<1			H	Inflicted injuries (head)	PHYS	NO	N/A
2			A	Asphyxia (ingested and choked on screw)	NEG	NO	N/A
3			A	Multiple injuries cause by fall from building	NEG	NO	N/A
7	case closed	more than 6 months	H	Asphyxiation	PHYS/NEG	NO	N/A
8			NC	Enterovirus Infection, malnutrition, general neglect	NEG	NO	N/A

CODES: NC = natural causes; A = accident; H = homicide; S = suicide; P = pending investigation; U = undetermined by medical examiner; O = Other; NEG = neglect; PHY = physical abuse;

AHT = abusive head trauma; MVA = motor vehicle accident; N/A = not in placement; RES = residential care

* Manner of death as determined by medical examiner

** Includes only fatalities involving neglect and/or physical abuse.

*** Manner of death was not available for children who died out of state

Analysis of DCF Child Fatalities: 1989 – 2014 (Open or Recently Closed Cases)

Thirty-three (37) children “known” to DCF died in 2014. Over the past 26 years, DCF child deaths (on open or recently closed cases) have ranged from a high of 89 to a low of 30 fatalities per year, with a median of 40 fatalities. (Table A5)

Table A5. Age of Children (1989 –2014): Counts of Children

Calendar Year	Age of Children						Total
	Less than 28 days	28 days to < 1yr.	1 yr. to <2yrs.	2 yrs. to <5yrs.	5 yrs. to <12yrs.	12 yrs. or Older	
1989: No. %	16 19%	26 31%	5 6%	9 11%	10 12%	18 21%	84 100%
1990:	10 11%	30 34%	7 8%	12 13%	9 10%	21 24%	89 100%
1991:	8 12%	21 32%	4 6%	6 9%	9 14%	18 27%	66 100%
1992:	8 12%	23 34%	8 12%	8 12%	5 7%	15 22%	67 100%
1993:	10 15%	17 25%	11 16%	6 9%	6 9%	18 26%	68 100%
1994:	1 2%	25 38%	7 11%	9 14%	8 12%	15 23%	65 100%
1995:	8 15%	21 40%	6 11%	5 9%	10 19%	3 6%	53 100%
1996:	3 5%	14 25%	3 5%	6 11%	13 24%	16 29%	55 100%
1997:	6 14%	11 26%	3 7%	5 12%	2 5%	15 36%	42 100%
1998:	4 10%	5 12%	5 12%	6 15%	4 10%	17 41%	41 100%
1999:	6 15%	9 23%	1 3%	4 10%	4 10%	15 38%	39 100%
2000:	5 12%	6 15%	7 17%	3 7%	5 12%	15 37%	41 100%
2001:	3 7%	12 26%	1 2%	4 9%	8 17%	18 39%	46 100%
2002:	1 3%	9 28%	4 12%	8 25%	6 19%	4 12%	32 100%
2003:	3 8%	10 28%	4 11%	3 8%	5 14%	11 31%	36 100%
2004:	4 13%	6 20%	2 7%	4 13%	4 13%	10 33%	30 100%
2005:	5 16%	10 32%	1 3%	2 6%	4 13%	9 29%	31 100%
2006:	-- --	11 35%	2 6%	5 16%	4 13%	9 29%	31 100%
2007:	4 12%	13 38%	2 6%	2 6%	5 15%	8 24%	34 100%
2008:	6 16%	15 39%	1 3%	2 5%	2 5%	12 32%	38 100%
2009:	4 8%	13 26%	4 8%	5 10%	10 20%	14 28%	50 100%
2010:	6 20%	7 23%	3 10%	3 10%	2 7%	9 30%	30 100%
2011:	4 11%	11 30%	1 3%	2 5%	9 24%	10 27%	37 100%
2012:	5 13%	21 54%	2 5%	1 3%	2 5%	8 21%	39 100%
2013:	3 9%	15 45%	1 3%	4 12%	4 12%	6 18%	33 100%
2014:	6 16%	11 30%	3 8%	3 8%	5 14%	9 24%	37 100%

Child Maltreatment-Related Fatalities: 2001 – 2014

The following data are limited to child fatalities where maltreatment was a direct cause of death or a contributing factor to the cause of death. While DCF has maintained data on maltreatment-related deaths since 1989, data collection was limited to children in families with an open or recently closed DCF case. Beginning in 2001, DCF began compiling data on maltreatment-related deaths of children whose families were unknown to DCF and children whose families had their DCF cases closed more than six months prior to the child's death. The following analysis includes maltreatment-related deaths for children in families known and "unknown" to the Department.

Of the 50 child fatalities in 2014 (37 for families known to DCF and 13 for families with non-current or no DCF history), there were 22 (44% of 50) child fatalities with supported allegations of neglect or physical abuse by a caretaker. **(Table A7)**

- Neglect was a factor in 18 deaths, physical abuse was a factor in 2 deaths, and both neglect and physical abuse were factors in 2 deaths. **(Table A7)**
- Eleven (11) of the deaths involved multiple perpetrators **(Table A6)**. Perpetrators of neglect included: 16 mothers, 9 fathers, 1 stepfather, 1 male partner, 1 day-care provider, 1 other unrelated caretaker, and 1 legal guardian. Perpetrators of physical abuse were: 1 mother, 2 fathers, 1 day-care provider, 1 other unrelated caretaker, and 1 legal guardian. **(Table A8)**
- Maltreatment-related deaths have ranged from 7 to 39 per year, with a median of 18 deaths from 2001-2014. **(Table A7)**
- Maltreatment-related deaths of children under age one year have ranged from 4 to 22 per year, with a median of 9.5 deaths from 2001-2014. **(Table A7)**
- All 22 victims of maltreatment were living at home/kin at the time of death. **(Table A7)**
- DCF case statuses of the 22 families:
 - 1 was open protective case for 6 months or less
 - 7 were open protective cases for more than 6 months
 - 1 was closed case for 6 months or less
 - 5 were closed for more than 6 months
 - 8 families were unknown to DCF**(Table A7)**

Summary of 22 Maltreatment-Related Child Fatalities in 2014

18 Neglect-Related Deaths:

- 9 infants at risk due to unsafe sleeping conditions (4 possible SIDS)
- 2 medical complications due to prenatal drug exposure and lack of prenatal care
- 1 malnutrition and lack of medical care
- 1 fall from building (daycare provider failed to supervise)
- 1 asphyxiation (choked on screw)
- 1 suicide
- 3 ill-defined and unspecified cause

2 Physical Abuse-Related Deaths:

- 2 inflicted injuries to head

2 Physical Abuse- and Neglect-related Death:

- 1 asphyxiation (father perpetrator)
- 1 ill-defined and unspecified cause

TABLE A6. CY'2014 Child Fatalities: Perpetrators of Child Maltreatment (22 Children from Families Known or Unknown to DCF)

AGE OF CHILD	PERPETRATOR	NEGLECT	PHYSICAL ABUSE	FACTORS CAUSING OR CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH	CURRENT* MANNER** OF DEATH	TEEN MOTHER AT 1ST BIRTH	
<1 day	mother	X		prematurity	DV/SA	P	YES
7 days	mother	X		ill-defined and unspecified cause (unsafe sleeping conditions)	SA	P	UNKNOWN
16 days	mother	X		ill-defined and unspecified cause (unsafe sleeping conditions)	SA	U	NO
	father	X					
30 days	mother	X		Pulmonary Hemorrhage, severe cardiac condition	DV/SA	NC	NO
	male partner	X					
32 days	mother	X		SIDS (co-sleeping w/ mother)	SA/MI	U	UNKNOWN
74 days	mother	X		ill-defined and unspecified cause	SA/MI	P	NO
	father	X					
77 days	father	X		SIDS (unsafe sleeping conditions)		U	UNKNOWN
103 days	mother	X		SIDS (co-sleeping w/ mother)		U	UNKNOWN
115 days	mother		X	Inflicted injuries (head)		O***	UNKNOWN
	father		X				
116 days	mother	X		Complications of cardiopulmonary arrest, unspecified cause (unsafe sleeping conditions)	SA	U	NO
	father	X					
117 days	mother	X		ill-defined and unspecified cause (co-sleeping w/ mother)	SA/MI	P	UNKNOWN
122 days	mother	X		SIDS (unsafe sleeping conditions)		U	UNKNOWN
	father	X					
129 days	mother	X		ill-defined and unspecified cause	SA/MI	P	UNKNOWN
	father	X					
185 days	daycare provider		X	Inflicted injuries (head)		H	UNKNOWN
195 days	mother	X		unspecified cause (unsafe sleeping conditions)	SA	O***	NO
	father	X					
2 years	caretaker	X	X	ill-defined and unspecified cause	DV/SA	U	NO
	legal guardian	X	X				
2 years	mother	X		Asphyxia (ingested and choked on screw)		A	UNKNOWN
3 years	daycare provider	X		Multiple injuries cause by fall from building		A	UNKNOWN
6 years	mother	X		ill-defined and unspecified cause	SA/MI	P	YES
7 years	father	X	X	Asphyxiation		H	UNKNOWN
8 years	mother	X		Enterovirus Infection, malnutrition, general neglect		NC	UNKNOWN
	father	X					
12 years	mother	X		Hanging	MI	S	UNKNOWN
	stepfather	X					

CODES: NC = natural causes; A = accident; H = homicide; S = suicide; P = pending investigation; U = undetermined by medical examiner; O = Other; SA = substance abuse; DV = domestic violence;

MI = mental illness

* Applies to child's caretaker (mother, father, other) and child

Table A7. Profile of Child Neglect/Physical Abuse Deaths

	Calendar Year														Total
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
2001-2014															
Total Child Maltreatment Fatalities	19	17	16	8	7	10	19	18	15	18	23	20	39	22	251
Family Case Status:															
current protective case open 6 months or less	3	--	1	1	2	1	4	5	2	3	3	5	10	1	41
current protective case open more than 6 months	3	7	4	1	--	2	6	3	4	3	4	1	7	7	52
current CRA case *	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	4
current voluntary open more than 6 months	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	1
case closed 6 months or less	1	2	--	1	2	--	--	3	--	2	3	1	2	1	18
case closed more than 6 months	3	2	4	2	1	3	1	2	2	5	3	6	5	5	44
unknown to DCF	9	6	7	3	2	4	5	5	6	5	10	7	14	8	91
Maltreatment:															
neglect	11	12	10	6	5	8	13	15	9	10	18	18	29	18	182
physical abuse	3	4	1	2	1	1	3	1	3	2	2	1	3	2	29
neglect and physical abuse	5	1	5	--	1	1	3	2	3	6	3	1	7	2	40
Gender:															
male	10	11	9	7	6	7	7	8	9	11	11	14	19	11	140
female	9	6	7	1	1	3	12	10	6	7	12	6	20	11	111
Age (years):															
less than 1	11	9	6	6	4	5	11	10	7	8	11	18	22	14	142
1 – 5	6	6	6	--	2	3	3	4	3	9	8	1	10	4	65
6 – 11	2	2	2	--	1	1	5	1	3	--	3	1	5	3	29
12 - 17	--	--	2	2	--	1	--	3	2	1	1	--	2	1	15
Race:															
White	3	3	12	2	2	4	6	8	5	6	8	8	19	12	98
Black	2	2	--	--	2	2	4	2	4	4	5	1	5	3	36
Asian	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	1	2	--	1	--	1	--	6
multi-racial	1	7	1	1	--	1	2	1	1	4	1	2	2	2	26
unknown	13	5	2	5	3	3	7	6	3	4	8	9	12	5	85
Hispanic Origin:															
yes	1	4	3	3	--	3	6	4	4	3	7	9	9	3	59
no	6	5	11	2	4	7	9	11	11	12	5	10	21	12	126
unknown	12	8	2	3	3	--	4	3	--	3	11	1	9	7	66
Placement Status:															
not in placement	16	14	16	7	5	9	19	14	15	17	23	18	37	22	132
unrelated foster home	1	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
residential care	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	1
institution (hospital/nursing home)	2	3	--	1	1	1	--	4	--	1	--	2	1	--	16
Manner of Death:															
natural causes **	4	3	3	4	1	2	--	5	--	1	1	--	3	2	29
accident	6	7	7	2	3	4	8	8	4	6	8	5	10	2	80
suicide	--	--	1	--	1	--	--	--	1	--	1	--	1	1	6
homicide	8	5	5	2	2	3	7	3	6	8	4	3	8	2	66
undetermined/pending ***	1	2	--	--	--	1	4	2	4	3	9	12	17	13	68
other****	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	2

* CRA = Children Requiring Assistance

** Premature babies dying from congenital conditions (neglect) or placental abruption (physical abuse) due to their mothers' use of substances during pregnancy.

*** Manner of death could not be determined following an autopsy by a medical examiner (or pending completion of an investigation).

****Manner of death unavailable due to child death occurring out of state

Table A8. Perpetrators of Child Neglect/Physical Abuse		Calendar Year														Total
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
2001-2014																
Perpetrator: *	mother	10	11	13	4	5	6	15	13	9	13	16	16	23	16	172
(Neglect)	father	2	3	6	2	1	2	3	4	7	6	4	12	14	9	75
	stepfather	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1	1	3
	male partner	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	--	1	1	--	2	1	7
	female partner	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	3
	grandmother	--	1	2	--	1	1	--	1	2	--	1	--	1	--	10
	grandfather	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	1
	aunt	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	3
	uncle	1	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	1	--	5
	female legal guardian	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	1	1	4
	foster parent	1	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
	day-care provider	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	3
	provider (after school program)	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
	babysitter	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	2	--	1	--	--	1	--	5
	gym teacher	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	1
	other unrelated adult caretaker	--	--	--	1	--	2	--	--	--	--	2	--	1	1	7
	nursing home/rehab staff	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
	residential care staff	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	1
	unknown	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	2
Perpetrator: *	mother	1	3	2	1	1	--	2	1	2	4	4	--	3	1	25
(Physical Abuse)	father	4	1	1	1	--	--	1	--	4	3	--	1	1	2	19
	male partner	1	1	2	--	--	--	3	--	1	1	2	--	6	--	17
	female partner	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
	uncle	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	2
	female legal guardian	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1
	foster parent	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
	day-care provider	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1
	babysitter	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	1
	nanny	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	1
	other unrelated adult caretaker	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	2
	non-caretaker **	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
	unknown	1	--	1	--	--	2	--	--	--	1	--	--	2	--	7

* Perpetrators who neglect and physically abuse a child are counted under each category. If more than one perpetrator victimized a child, each perpetrator is counted under the appropriate category (ies).

** Non-caretaker was the mother's former female partner (2 siblings died in arson fire).